

Below are my comments for NPRM in WT 05-235.

I have mixed emotions on dropping the CW requirement for testing. As I see it, CW is the only mode where additional knowledge in operation is required. Because of this, I think that requiring CW proficiency should be required if the mode is going to be used. Granted, this would mean that you would have a license structure like General, General +, Extra, Extra +, and the current Tech, and Tech +.

As technology grows, to work a "digital" mode, all you have to do is connect your computer up to the radio. CW is no difference. Anyone can connect any radio to a computer and work any mode possible including voice. I propose setting aside a portion of the CW bands for the "no-code" amateurs for practice, etc. And the rest of the CW bands for the radio operators that have proven CW proficiency.

Despite the fact that other countries have dropped CW requirements, I truly do not believe that this is the best course of action for US amateur radio operations.

CW is still a viable mode needed for longer and rare contacts. Dropping CW proficiency will cause no effect at first but, as time goes on, I am afraid that I would see less and less CW usage.

When I first obtained my license, I liked the fact that I no longer had to prove CW proficiency to obtain the license. As time grew and my want for upgrading grew, I did not see CW as a roadblock. I saw it as an opportunity for advancement regardless of the fact that I may or may not ever use it. My intention was to do what I needed to do in order to upgrade whether it was CW or not and regardless at what speed I had to "prove" myself at.

If CW proficiency is being dropped because people may see it has a hurdle, then it is being dropped for the wrong reason. If there is a sound reason why it is being dropped, then I will back that reason.

I am just afraid that CW will fall to the waste side because of this new decision. CW is as much a part of Amateur Radio as Amateur Radio is a part of CW. I know that traditions change from time to time. I am not saying that this should not be changed just because it is a tradition. I am just saying that if someone does not want to use it, then let them not use it but, if someone does want to use it, require proficiency then in order to use it in the higher licenses. Otherwise, do not require proficiency for the lower licenses and bands for the ones that want to learn and use it.

I would suggest opening up the CW novice portion of the bands for the amateurs that are working towards their proficiency and then the General and Extra CW bands, leave that for the “proven proficiency” operators.